

THE PENS DISPATCH

From the Criminal Investigations Unit at PCT IV

Police Email Notification System

MONTHLY EDITION

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Welcome to the August edition of THE PENS DISPATCH. This bulletin is brought to you from the Precinct IV Criminal Investigations Unit and is designed to keep you aware of crime trends in your area and tips on measures you can take to keep you and your family safe.

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PUBLIC SAFETY TOPIC OF THE MONTH

Although the summer season is far from over, summer vacation for most metro Atlanta area students is coming to an end. And as we all know, the school year comes with a substantial increase in morning traffic. I would like to encourage everyone to allow an extra 10 or 15 minutes for their morning commute. The extra time will not only reduce stress but help keep our roads safer. Drivers are less likely to speed or engage in other dangerous driving habits when they aren't running late.

One of the most dangerous traffic law violations a driver can commit is to pass a school bus that has stopped to load or unload children. In an effort to reduce this type of behavior, the Cobb County Police Department and The Cobb County Board of Education have partnered to expand the program that equips school buses with high resolution video cameras designed to capture drivers who violate the law. Violators caught on video will receive a \$300.00 fine in the mail.

If a police officer personally witnesses the violation, the criminal penalty is \$600.00 for the first offense and 6 points on your license.

When a school bus is stopped to load or unload children, drivers traveling in both directions are required to stop. The only exception to this law is for drivers traveling in the opposite direction of the school bus on a divided highway with four or more lanes separated by a median. You may click on the following link provided by Operation Stop Arm to view diagrams depicting when you are required by law to stop:

[http://www.operationstoparm.info/Operation Stop Arm/Law.html](http://www.operationstoparm.info/Operation%20Stop%20Arm/Law.html).

Failing to stop for a school bus that is loading and unloading children can have tragic consequences for both the child and the driver. While some drivers deliberately violate the law, others are not paying attention or unsure when to stop. Drivers are often running late, talking on the cell phone or otherwise distracted or driving while drowsy. I encourage everyone to review the law and take a moment to examine personal driving habits that could potentially lead to disaster.

CRIME TRENDS

In the last few weeks we have seen an increase in business burglaries, especially along Roswell Road and in the Canton Road area. If you own a small business I would encourage you to have a monitored security system installed. Remove all cash from the register each night and leave the drawer open. Take down all large posters or other items that obstruct the view from the front windows.

WHAT YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CAN DO

With school starting back there will be an increase in school age children walking to and from the bus stop. Please pay attention to your speed and watch out for them.

Reinforce the following safety tips with your kids:

- Stay alert to surroundings at all times.
- Don't talk on the phone or text while walking.
- Walk on the sidewalk wherever possible. Lacking a sidewalk, children should walk on the edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- If the child has to cross the street it should only be done at a designated crosswalk. If a crosswalk is not available then cross at a stop sign.
- Avoid sitting on the edge of the road while waiting on the bus. This greatly decreases a child's visibility.
- Don't engage in horseplay while waiting on the bus.
- If a child is approached by a stranger, the child should flag down another passing motorist or run to a neighbor's house for assistance. Children should report the incident to 911 first before calling parents.

FEATURED ARRESTS

413 beat: On June 27th, at approximately 3:00 AM Precinct IV Morning Watch officers were patrolling the businesses in undercover vehicles near Sandy Plains and Canton Roads in response to an increase in business burglaries in that area. A male and female were located behind a closed business and provided conflicting stories as to why they were there. They were arrested for Loitering and Prowling that night and a subsequent investigation by a CIU IV detective linked them to a burglary at The Dive Shop. Great team work!

417 beat: On June 25th, at approximately 3:10 AM, Precinct IV Morning Watch officers received information about a possible burglary in progress at the Johnson Ferry Animal Clinic on Johnson Ferry Road. After finding forced entry, officers conducted a thorough search of the business and located the suspect in an attic crawl space and charged him with burglary. Great Job!

In addition to the featured arrests, the uniformed officers and detectives at PCT IV made over 120 arrests last month for a variety of charges, including DUI and other alcohol related charges, Violation of the Georgia Control Substance Act, Wanted Person Located, and numerous driving offenses. All of these arrests go a long way toward keeping East Cobb a safe place to work and live.

This concludes the August PENS Bulletin. Please continue to stay involved, stay vigilant, and help look out for your neighbors!

LINKS TO HELPFUL RESOURCES

[Cobb County Police Department](#)

[Cobb County PD on Facebook](#)

[Cobb County Fire and EMS](#)

[Cobb County Board of Education](#)

[Cobb County Animal Control](#)

[Cobb County Community Development/Code Enforcement](#)

[County Ordinance Violation pamphlet \(*revised April 2012*\)](#)

[Neighborhood Safety Commission Safety Commission](#)

[GA Department of Driver's Services \(new documentation requirements\)](#)